

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method of ~~scheduling use of a resource, the method~~ comprising:

receiving a first scheduling request for a resource, the first scheduling request specifying that the resource is to be scheduled for a requested amount of time sometime within a requested time period; ~~the requested amount of time being less than a maximum time amount that the resource is available during the requested time period;~~

receiving a second scheduling request for the resource that refines the first scheduling request, the second scheduling request specifying that a portion of the requested amount of time is to be scheduled in a specific time slot within the requested time period;

scheduling in an electronic schedule the portion of the requested amount of time in the specific time slot; and

scheduling in the electronic schedule a remaining portion of the requested amount of time within the requested time period except within the specific time slot.

2. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the resource is a person that provides a service ~~requested by the first scheduling request, a machine, a tool, or a workstation.~~

3. (Canceled).

4. (Canceled).

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the first scheduling request specifies that the resource is to be scheduled for a predetermined number of hours within the requested time period that includes a specific date range.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the second scheduling request refines the first scheduling request by requesting that a portion of the predetermined number of hours from the first scheduling request is to be scheduled for the specific time slot on a specific date within the date range.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein scheduling in the electronic schedule is done to determine a utilization of the resource.

8. (Currently amended) A computer program product tangibly embodied in an information carrier, the computer program product including instructions that when executed cause a processor to perform operations comprising:

receive a first scheduling request for a resource, the first scheduling request specifying that the resource is to be scheduled for a requested amount of time sometime within a requested time period; ~~the requested amount of time being less than a maximum time amount that the resource is available during the requested time period;~~

receive a second scheduling request for the resource that refines the first scheduling request, the second scheduling request specifying that a portion of the requested amount of time is to be scheduled in a specific time slot within the requested time period;

schedule in an electronic schedule the portion of the requested amount of time in the specific time slot; and

schedule in the electronic schedule a remaining portion of the requested amount of time within the requested time period except within the specific time slot.

9. (Currently amended) The computer program product of claim 8, wherein the executable instructions, when executed, further cause [[the]] a resource planning application to receive all time slots in which the resource is available within the requested time period.

10. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the requested amount of time is less than a maximum time amount that the resource is available during the requested time period.

11. (New) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

receiving all time slots in which the resource is available within the requested time period according to resource's availability information stored in a database.

12. (New) The method of claim 11, wherein the resource's availability information is maintained as a set of time intervals in the database.

13. (New) The method of claim 6, further comprising:

referring to resource's availability information to verify that the resource has sufficient capacity on the specific date regarding the second scheduling request.

14. (New) The computer program product of claim 8, wherein the requested amount of time is less than a maximum time amount that the resource is available during the requested time period.